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USSR CELEBRATES MINER'S DAY 1953

On Miner's Day 1953, A. Zasyad'ko, Minister of the Coal Industry USSR, and several of the deputy ministers published general articles on the status of the coal industry in newspapers appearing that day (30 August), and a number of the important combines and trusts in outstanding coal regions made reports, some appearing in newspapers, some in the August issue of Ugol'. The highlights of these articles are given in the following report.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.

General Status of Coal Industry as of 30 August 1953

The 19th Party Congress demanded an approximate 43 percent increase in coal output during the Fifth Five-Year Plan, and the coal industry is successfully advancing toward this goal. During 22 years of the Fifth Five-Year Plan, coal output has increased 23 percent and production costs have dropped 10 percent per ton of coal. In 1953, the country will mine more than 320 million tons of coal, or 93 percent more than in 1940. Labor productivity of coal miners has risen 42 percent in the postwar period.

At present, such processes as cutting, breaking up of coal, conveying, hauling, and loading it onto railroad cars are completely mechanized. One fourth of all the coal extracted from slightly dipping or dipping seams is loaded mechanically at the face. More than 40 percent of work in cutting main development workings is carried out with the aid of loading machines. By the end of the Fifth Five-Year Plan the volume of mechanized loading at the face and loading of coal and rock in development work will be doubled.

However, there are serious defects in the work of the coal industry. Many mines and coal pits are not fulfilling the established plan for coal output, for an increase in labor productivity, and for reduction in production costs of coal.

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For example, about half the mines in the Stalinugol', Voroshilovgradugol', and Molotovugol' combines did not fulfill the state plan for the second quarter 1953. Production costs of coal continue to be high, and this restricts reduction of prices both for coal and for many types of industrial items.

The most important contribution toward the development and improvement of operations of the coal industry would be an improvement in the methods of working deposits. Mining systems, particularly in the Donbass, continue to remain the same as they were 20 to 30 years ago, when mines did not have at their disposal modern techniques and equipment.

One system of mining which should find extensive use in the Fifth Five-Year Plan is the hydraulic method. This method permits a radical change in the appearance of the mine and in the character of mining operations. The volume and cost of constructing a mine to be mined by the hydraulic system are only a fraction of the cost of constructing other types of mines. Several operations at the face are replaced by one operation -- the breaking down of the coal seam by a stream of water under pressure. This system will create conditions for increasing labor productivity to more than tentimes that in mechanized mines.

Almost half the working faces and about 1,600 working fronts in development work have been converted to the cycle work schedule. At faces which are fulfilling the cycle norm, coal output and labor productivity have increased to $1\frac{1}{2}$ times the former figures. There are, however, many mines and even trusts where the conversion has been only a formal one and which are not fulfilling the established norms.

Considerable work is being done in the USSR coal industry on the underground gasification of coal, which frees miners from underground work and supplies a convenient type of fuel for the national economy. Production of gas by underground gasification of coal is, at present, at more than ten times the prewar level.

In recent years there has been a wide extension of coal cleaning and coal briquetting. The principal coal basins -- the Donbass, the Kuzbass, and Karaganda -- subject almost all high-ash coal to be used for coking to mechanical cleaning. The number of coal-cleaning plants is five times that of 1940 and the output of concentrate almost six times as much.(1)

Reports from the Donbass

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In 1952, the coal output of the Stalinugol' Trust of the Stalinugol' Combine was 10.2 percent above that of 1951. About 50 percent of the working faces of the trust had been converted to the cycle work schedule. The level of mechanization of coal loading at the face had reached 38 percent, as against a planned 35 percent. Mechanized loading by combines was being carried out at nine mines, and combines had been particularly successfully introduced at Mine No 5 Trudov-skaya, Mine No 1 imeni Chelyuskintsy, and Mine No 2/7 Lidiyevka.

The mines of the trust are continuing to work well in 1953. The plan for coal output was fulfilled 100.8 percent in the first half of 1953. The miners pledged to fulfill the year plan ahead of schedule and to extract 50,000 tons of coal above plan. During 5 months of 1953, they delivered more than 22,000 tons of coal above plan toward the fulfillment of their pledge, and, at the same, the average daily output rose 15.1 percent for Mine No 1 imeni Chelyuskintsy, 11.5 percent for Mine No 4/21, 23.7 percent for Mine No 29 imeni Stalin, and 16.9 percent for Petrovo-Lidiyevka Mine.

In 1951, the total length of all workings cut was 15.1 kilometers but, in only 5 months of 1953, 9.9 kilometers had a ready been cut. The monthly volume of development work rose from 1,260 meters to 1,980 meters, more than a 50-percent increase.

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In 1953, ShBM development work combines are being used successfully in cutting development workings. In Mine No 1 imeni Chelyuskintsy, a brigade of development workers cut 191 meters of a passage in one month. This same brigade cut 777 meters of the western passage of the mine in 5 months of 1953. During the same time, the level of mechanized loading at the face reached 38.3 percent, which was $1\frac{1}{2}$ times the 1951 volume.

To accelerate the mechanization of coal loading at the face, and primarily at thin seams, coal machine building plants must issue more combines of the Shakhter, Gornyak, and UKMG-1 types. This will permit raising the level of mechanization at the face up to 50 percent during 1953. In some mines loading at the face is actually mechanized completely or more than 75 percent. For example, in Mine No 5-ois Trudovskaya, loading is mechanized at all faces; in Mine No 1 imeni Chelyuskintsy, 92 percent; and in Mine No 2/7 Lidiyevka, 76.5 percent. In thin seams, loading is mechanized almost 50 percent at Mines No 19 and No 30.

The number of mines of the trust operating on the cycle work schedule and fulfilling the cycle norm is increasing every month. Twenty faces fulfilled the cycle norm in the first quarter 1953, 31 faces in March and April, and 36 faces in June. In June 1953, 72 percent of the working faces had been converted to the cycle work schedule, as well as 52 development working fronts.

Six additional ShBM combines will be put to work in mines of the trust during 1953 to speed up the rate of development work. Thus, by the end of the year, ten of these combines and 54 loading machines will be in operation; this will permit raising the volume of mechanized development work to 50 percent.

The use of metal and reinforced concrete props in mines of the trust is increasing. In 1953, an additional 50 kilometers of workings will be propped with this type of support, making a total of 200 kilometers, or about 50 percent of all workings, propped by the end of the year.

Mines of the Stalinugol' Trust expect to fulfill their obligations to extract not less than 30,000 tons of above-plan coal by Miner's Day 1953.

The Kalininugol' Trust of the Stalinugol' Combine has likewise had successes during the past 3 years. In that time, the trust's average daily output rose 52 percent, labor productivity for explcitation work 24 percent, the number of development working fronts with mechanized coal and rock loading 150 percent, and the level of mechanization 74 percent. The technical condition of the mines is improving: 80 percent of the underground haulage roads have already converted to heavy-type rails and the productivity of the electric locomotive has increased 41 percent. The amount of coal mined is increasing and production costs have dropped sharply in 3 years.

At present, more than 100 loading machines are used in mines of the trust, as well as about ten combines for steeply dipping coal seams and several tens of winches at loading points. Dispatcher service is being introduced in underground transport. About 40 percent of all the faces of the trust are operating on the cycle work schedule, and the output from these faces is 39.7 percent higher than before their conversion.

The trust fulfilled the 5-month plan for coal output 101.8 percent, mining 30 trainloads of high-grade coking coal above the plan. Workers of all mines in the trust, except Mine No 8-a imeni Stalin, completed the 5-month plan. Workers of the Mine imeni Rumyantsev achieved the best results: some faces of this mine advances as much as 65 meters per month. Outstanding workers in the trust fulfill their norms 140 to 200 percent.(2)

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Reports From the Moscow Basin

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The Moscow basin coal output is several times the 1940 prewar level. Miner's Day pledges made by Moscow basin miners have been fulfilled by 5,250 workers. More than 1,000 miners have already completed their annual quotas and are mining coal on their 1954 and 1955 quotas. During 8 months of 1953, miners of Mine No 36 of the Stalinogorskugol' Trust, Moskvougol' Combine, shipped to Moscow enterprises 25 trainloads of fuel above plan. A brigade working in the same mine made the Moscow basin record for development work, achieving 394 linear meters in a month. The best results in the use of a cutting machine were achieved by an operator in Mine No 25 of the Krasnoarmeyskugol' Trust (also of the Moskvougol' Combine) who cut 15,717 tons of coal in a month. The best section on the cycle work schedule is Section No 5 of Mine No 34 of the Krasnoarmeyskugol' Trust.

The technical re-equipment of mines of the Moscow basin is proceeding at a rapid rate. Twice as many Donbass combines and \mathbf{l}_2^1 times as many development work combines will be in use in Moscow basin mines in the second helf of 1953 as in the first half. The Donbass combine was actually not intended for operations under Moscow basin conditions, but through the initiative of workers, engineers, and technicians of the basin the machine was adapted to the needs of the area.(3)

Mine No 34, mentioned above, was put into operation at the end of 1949 and, in 5 months, achieved its planned capacity. In 1952, the mine gave the country 17,500 tons of coal above plan and promised 12,000 tons above the plan for 1953. However, during the first half of 1953 alone, workers of the mine turned over 16,000 tons of coal above plan, exceeded the plan for development work, and saved some 300,000 rubles by lowering production costs.

Mine No $3^{\rm h}$ uses the VOM-2M combine effectively in conjunction with the SK-2O conveyer. The productivity of the combine has been pushed to 10,311 tons from an ordinary face 58 meters long where the coal seam is 2.7 to 3.0 meters thick. In March 1953, the productivity of the combine went up to 12,231 tons.

In the first quarter 1953, the cutting machine used in Mine No 34 cut 13,099 tons, as against a planned 12,000, and the productivity of the PK-2M combine was 211 meters of development workings.

Labor productivity per worker in Mine No 34 was 64.6 tons per month in the first quarter 1953, or 103 percent of the planned 62.6 tons; in June the figure went up to 65.7 tons.

By Miner's Day, a VOM-2M combine will be introduced in another section of the mine. The new shield prop will be utilized with the VOM-2M combine. The level of mechanized loading at the face is to be pushed to 50-60 percent for the mine.

The Shchekinugol' Trust of the Tulaugol' Combine in the Moscow basin fulfilled the 1952 plan. It fulfilled the plan for development work 106.8 percent, and the plan for labor productivity 101.3 percent. The trust saved 2,835,000 rubles by reducing planned production costs. At the end of 1952, the average daily coal output was 39 percent above 1950, and labor productivity was 22.3 percent higher.

In 1953, mines of the trust are continuing to raise their rate of production; their average daily output for 5 months was 1,265 tons above 1952 and 49 percent above 1950. The trust has already achieved the level of output planned for the last year of the Fifth Five-Year Plan.

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The increase in coal output in mines of the trust has resulted from a regular increase in labor productivity brought about by the introduction of the cycle work schedule and by the mechanization of production. The following table contrasts the situation in mines at the end of 1951 with that at the end of 1952 and in the first quarter 1953.

•	End of 1951	End of 1952	First Quarter 1953
Average daily output (percent)	100	109	119.3
Number of faces converted to cycle work schedule	18	28	36
Labor productivity per worker (tons per month)	36.8	38.1	39•3

At faces converted to the cycle work schedule, the average daily output was 24 percent higher and labor productivity 10 percent higher than the average for all working faces. This increased productivity is indicated in the following table:

	Av for All Working Faces	Av for All Faces Converted to Cy- cle Work Schedule	Av for All Faces Completing Cycle Norm
Average daily output (tons)	149	185	191
Labor productivity per worker per month (tons)	93.8	101	106.8
Labor productivity of cutting and loading personnel per shift (tons)	11.3	12.4	13

The increase in labor productivity assured an increase in wages for workers in leading professions: operators of cutting machines, from 75.5 rubles to 85.7 rubles; cutting and loading personnel, from 59.3 rubles to 61.4 rubles; timbermen at the faces, from 53.1 rubles to 55.5 rubles; roof caving personnel up to 86.5 rubles per shift.

Mine No 12 of Mine Administration No 9/12 of the Shchekinugol' Trust, one of the outstanding mines of the Tulaugol' Combine, was put into operation in 1950. Workers of the mine have achieved its planned capacity and are steadily increasing the rate of coal extraction. By May 1953, 150 percent of the planned capacity of the mine had been achieved.

Mine No 12 has four extraction sections, each of which operates at two doublefaces, each 50 meters long. The cycle work schedule has been introduced in two sections and has raised the average daily output 40 to 45 percent above the period prior to the conversion. Coal removal from one linear meter of the front has risen 28 to 30 percent and exceeds 3 tons. Production costs per ton of coal are 18 to 20 percent lower than at sections working by the usual method. In 1952 alone, production costs of one ton of coal in Mine No 12 were reduced 16 rubles below 1951.



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In 1953, three sections began to work on the cycle work schedule and the fourth section is now being prepared to adopt this work method. By Miner's Day 1953, Mine No 12 will be entirely on the cycle schedule.

In the near future, a mechanized shield will be put into operation in Mine No 12 which will relieve the extraction sections from the laborious and expensive process of propping the worked-out area with timbers.(2)

Reports from the Kuzbess

Kuzbass miners fulfilled the Fourth Five-Year Plan ahead of schedule and have exceeded the plan for the first 2 years of the Fifth Five-Year Plan. In 1953, they are continuing to fulfill the state plan, considerably exceeding the plan for coal intended for coking.

At present, more than 50 coal-mining combines, hundreds of loading machines, and other modern machines and mechanisms are in operation in Kuzbass mines. Loading of coal at the face is mechanized 50.5 percent, and coal and real loading during development work is mechanized 80 percent.

For the Kuzbass as a whole, 58 percent of all faces and 37 percent of all working fronts in development work have been converted to the cycle work schedule. The goal for 1953 is to raise the figure of 58 percent to 65 percent.

The Kuzbass plans considerable work in the field of mechanizing coal loading at the face, the level of which is to be pushed to 51.4 percent in 1953 and to 75 percent in 1955.

Kuzbass mines are devoting great attention to meeting Miner's Day honorably. Workers of the Chernaya Gora Mine completed their 1953 year /above plan/ obligations on 27 May 1953 and have delivered 21,000 tons of coal above the plan. The mine completed the 1953 half-year plan on 15 June 1953.

The Chernaya Gora Mine is one of the most profitable enterprises of the Stalinugol' Trust. During 5 months of 1953, it acquired 800,000 rubles in above-plan accumulations. Other mines which fulfilled their obligations ahead of schedule were Mines No 4-6, Chertinskaya No 2-3, Yagunovskaya, Butovskaya, Zhurinka No 4, and Novaya. The largest mine in the basin, the Mine imeni Kirov (Leninugol' Trust), fulfilled almost double its obligations, delivering 55,000 tons of coal above plan.

A number of operators of combines are regularly completing the work cycle and have pushed the productivity of their combines to 12,000-14,000 tons per month. Their wages amount to 3,000-4,000 rubles per month, including awards of 650-850 rubles for their cycle achievement. Section No 5 of Pionerka Mine of the Belovugol' Trust has completed 40 cycles a month at a 100-meter face and has achieved a combine productivity of 18,000 tons.

The Molotovugol' Trust of the Kuzbassugol' Combine exceeded the plan for coal output for the first 2 years of the Fifth Five-Year Plan, and mines of the trust are continuing to operate successfully in 1953. More then 66,000 tons of high-grade coking coal above the plan have been shipped to the most important metallurgical enterprises of the Urals and Siberia.

All mines of the trust exceeded the plan for the first half of 1953. The ash content of the coal was lowered 0.31 percent, the plan for labor productivity was fulfilled 100.5 percent, and the plan for cutting main development workings, 104.3 percent. The plans for mechanizing coal loading at the face and for mechanizing the cutting of development workings were also exceeded.



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During 5 months of 1953, savings on the production costs of coal amounted to 353,000 rubles and above-plan profits were about 2 million rubles.

In mines of the Molotovugol' Trust, 35 of the faces and 50 percent of the development working fronts have been converted to the cycle work schedule and the cycle norm is being completed monthly by all mines, more than 21 faces, and almost all development working fronts. The productivity of the rock loader has reached 68 meters per month, as against a norm of 50 meters.

Kapital'naya Mine, the largest /in the trust/, has extracted more than 25,000 tons of above-plan coal, and the Shushtalepskiye Shtol'ni mines have delivered about 20,000 tons of fuel above the plan. These mines have greatly exceeded their planned capacities and are steadily continuing to increase their output. Shushtalepskaya Mine has exceeded its planned capacity 70 percent and is undertaking to double it by the end of 1953.

Workers of Kapital naya-2 Mine, recently put into operation, are striving to achieve the planned capacity of the mine and have set themselves the task of reaching this goal by the end of 1953.

Several sections of Kapital'naya-1 Mine are giving a good performance: Section No 5 saves 700 to 800 rubles every cycle; section No 2, which has a combine, has delivered more than 3,000 tons of coal above plan; section No 3, about 4,000 tons; section No 4, more than 5,000 tons.

In Mine No 4, the outstanding section for capital major operations, has organized the cutting of a main passage at the speed of 172 meters per month, which will make it possible in the near future to start operations from the far end of the mine field. Section 2 of Mine No 9 has delivered nearly 9,000 tons of coal above the plan.

The experience of outstanding sections indicates that mines of the Molotovugol' Trust are not full; exploiting their reserves. Of 33 exploitational sections, 13 did not fulfill the plan for coal output. Of 35 faces, 14 did not

Reports From Karaganda

Karaganda is aiming at a 1955 coal output which is 42 percent above its 1950 output for coal in general and 54 percent above for coking coal. At the same time, it is planned to step up the amount of concentrate from coal-cleaning plants to 2 2/5 the previous amount. Labor productivity in mines and pits is to be increased almost 50 percent and, in construction, 67 percent. Production costs per ton of coal and concentrate are to be reduced 20 percent and construction costs, 25 percent. As a result of improved work of the coal-cleaning plants, fuller utilization of cleaning equipment in mines, and regulation of the technology of coal mining, the ash content of coal is to be reduced regularly and the quality of the shipped fuel improved.

Karaganda miners exceeded the plan for the first half of 1953 for output of fuel and coking coal and for delivery of concentrate, with a coal output 4.8 percent above the same period of 1952 and a concentrate output 20.4 percent above.

More than 30 percent of the mines have achieved the level of output planned for 1955. The combine as a whole and the majority of the trusts and mines are operating at a profit in 1953. In 4 months the combine has received 5 million rubles in above plan gains as a result of lowering production costs and improving the quality of the fuel extracted.



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In 1952 alone, the number of the faces with mechanized loading at the face increased 29 percent and the number of combines in operation increased 32 percent. During 1953, the productivity of the combine has become 27.1 percent higher than in the same period of 1952. During the first half of 1953, the monthly productivity of the combine was 7,500 tons, as against a planned 7,400 tons, and the volume of mechanized loading at the face rose 15.6 percent. At present, 60-62 percent of all coal extracted in Karaganda is mined with combines and loading machines.

In the $2\frac{1}{2}$ years of the Fifth Five-Year Plan, Minc No 20 imeni Zhdanov, one of the leading mines of Karaganda, has shipped to industry and electric power stations more than 230 trainloads of coal above the plan. The mine has achieved its planned productive capacity and exceeded the level planned for 1955. Labor productivity of this mine increases each year and now exceeds the prewar level 22 percent. Three faces out of four in Mine No 20 are operating on the cycle work schedule, and the average daily output from each face is from 900 to 1,200 tons. The productivity of a Donbass combine operating in Mine No 20 is as high as 12,000-15,000 tons per month, and three operators of KMP-1 cutting machines have cut up to 27,000-30,000 tons in a month.

Mine No 31, another outstanding Karaganda mine, was the first in the basin to adopt continuous cycle work. Five out of six faces of this mine work on a schedule to complete one cycle a day. Coal loading is mechanized at all faces, and coal and rock loading is 70 percent mechanized in development work.(2)

Since the beginning of the Fifth Five-Year Plan, Mine No 31 has extracted 115 trainloads of coal above plan. The planned productive capacity of the mine has been exceeded 27 percent, labor productivity has risen considerably, and production costs have dropped.

Steady improvement in production has raised the daily output to 718 tons above that of 1950. Each miner produces an average of 57.5 tons of coal per month; production costs per ton of coal are 12 rubles 80 kopeks less than 3 years ago, and 3 rubles 25 kopeks less than in 1952.

During 8 months of 1953, Mine No 31 produced 30 trainloads of coal above plan, or five trainloads more than it had pledged. Ten additional trainloads above plan are to be delivered by the end of 1953.

Mine No 1 of the Stalinugol' Trust was the first mine in the Karaganda basin to fulfill the plan for the first three quarters of 1953. It is now delivering coal on its October quota.(4)

Along with Karaganda successes there are also some failures: 40 percent of the faces converted to the cycle work schedule are fulfilling their norms only 50-60 percent.(2) Lagging enterprises have failed to deliver about 200,000 tons of coal to the country during 1953.(4)

Reports From Central Asia

The Kirgiz coal output for 1952 was $1\frac{1}{2}$ times the prevar level. During 1953, 44,700,000 rubles are to be spent on the coal industry of the republic, 11,300,000 rubles of this for housing.

Mines of the Sulyuktaugol' Trust completed the 7-month plan 2 weeks ahead of schedule, increasing their coal output 15 percent above the corresponding period of 1952. The best results were achieved by Mines No 9, No 2/8, and No 4.

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In 1953, the proportion of mechanized coal extraction is 19.5 percent for the Kirgiz coal industry as a whole, but 43.3 percent for the Sulyuktaugol' Trust. By the end of 1953, 26 percent of all the coal extracted in the republic will be extracted by machinery, but this figure will risc to 75 percent for the Sulyuktaugol' Trust.

Mines of the Kirgiz SSR had no loading machines before World War II. Now many coal- and rock-loading machines are employed in development work, making it possible to mechanize coal and rock loading, to accelerate the speed of cutting development workings, and to raise labor productivity. Highly effective scraper conveyers, designed by Soviet engineers, move coal from the faces.

Mines of the Kok-Yangakugol' Trust have also exceeded their quotas. The outstanding mines in this trust were Kapital'naya Mine and Mine No 40. Since the beginning of 1953, Mine No 40 has shipped several thousand tons of coal above the 8-month plan.

The 7-month plan was not fulfilled by a number of mines, including two in the Kyzyl-Kiya Trust. One third of the mines of the Kirgiz SSR did not fulfill the plan for increase in labor productivity or for production costs. Of ten faces converted to the cycle work schedule, only three or four are fulfilling the established norm.

One of the chief defects in the work of the mines and trusts is their failure to achieve their productive capacities; for example, Mine No 6 of the Kyzyl-Kiya Trust, although provided with all the latest techniques and most modern equipment, has achieved only one third of its productive capacity. The same situation prevails in Mine No 6 of the Sulyuktaugol' Trust, Mine No 40 of the Kok-Yangakugol' Trust, and in the Kapital'naya Mine of the Tash-Kumyr mine field.(5)

Miners of the Tadzhikugol' Trust fulfilled the 1952 plan for coal extraction and gave the country much above-plan coal. Mine No 1/5 was the outstanding mine of the trust. With work organized on the cycle work schedule, this mine is exceeding its monthly plans and has already achieved its planned capacity. At the beginning of August 1953, workers of Mine No 1/5 pledged 1,800 tons of coal above plan by Miner's Day. Later they revised this pledge to 2,000 tons, and they have succeeded in fulfilling their promise.

However, Mine No 8, the largest in the trust, has been failing to complete the state plan for a long time and, at present, owes the state 4,500 tons of coal. Tadzhik miners as a whole are meeting Miner's Day with an indebtedness toward the state of 17,000 tons of coal.(6)

The Uzbek 1952 coal output was several times that of 1945 and, during 7 months of 1953, was considerably above the corresponding period of 1952. The Uzbekugol' Trust fulfilled the 8-month plan ahead of schedule. Workers of the open pit have achieved particularly good results in achieving their planned quotas. Labor productivity in 1953 has risen 15.6 percent over the same period of 1952 for the open pit, and 8.9 percent for Mine No 9. Production costs per ton of coal have dropped 4 rubles 46 kopeks for the open pit and one ruble 72 kopeks for Mine No 9 below the same period of 1952.(7)

Transpolar Region (Zapolyar'ya)

Miners of the Transpolar region have been competing to meet Miner's Day worthily. Mine No 29 has achieved great success, delivering two trainloads of coal above the plan during 10 days of July. Mine No 7 has also been working well. On 14 July, extraction section No 1 mined 50 tons of coal above its quota.

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Fuel extraction in this enterprise has risen 43.2 percent above the first year of the Fifth Five-Year Plan. Mine No 18 is producing coal steadily. Face No 4, which is on the cycle work schedule, has been exceeding its schedule daily; in the first 10 days of July, workers at the face extracted more than 300 tons of coal above plan.(8)

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